



HR0862

LRB099 15154 MST 39387 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of
4 California winery entrepreneur, Raymond Twomey Duncan, who
5 passed away on October 9, 2015, at the age of 84; and

6 WHEREAS, Raymond Duncan was born on October 23, 1930 in
7 South Bend, Indiana to Walter and Velma (nee Twomey) Duncan; he
8 was raised in LaSalle, where he attended St. Bede Academy; he
9 studied philosophy at the University of Notre Dame before
10 joining the United States Marine Corps, serving in the Korean
11 War; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1958, Raymond Duncan moved to Durango,
13 Colorado, where he founded Duncan Oil, an independent
14 oil-and-gas operator; and

15 WHEREAS, A fondness of skiing also led Raymond Duncan to
16 establish the Purgatory Ski Resort in 1968 in the San Juan
17 Mountains; and

18 WHEREAS, Raymond Duncan's entrepreneurial spirit
19 eventually led him to California in 1970, where he began
20 purchasing vineyard land in the Napa and Alexander Valleys; and

1 WHEREAS, Raymond Duncan, along with winemaker, Justin
2 Meyer, founded the Silver Oak Winery in 1972; together, with
3 Raymond focusing on the financial and administrative end of the
4 business and Justin overseeing the winemaking, the 2 grew
5 Silver Oak into one of the most well-known and successful
6 wineries in California; and

7 WHEREAS, Silver Oak Winery still operates today out of its
8 original building, producing approximately 100,000 cases of
9 Cabernet Sauvignon annually from the family's Napa and
10 Alexander Valley estates; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1999, Raymond Duncan and his sons, David and
12 Tim, founded Twomey Cellars, which features Pinot Noir, Merlot,
13 and Sauvignon Blanc wines from both Napa and Sonoma Counties;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Raymond Duncan is also remembered as an avid
16 philanthropist, with involvement in the Crow Canyon
17 Archaeological Center, the Denver Art Museum, the Kent Denver
18 School, the St. Helena Montessori School, and the Sonoma
19 Academy; this year, along with his family, he enjoyed the
20 groundbreaking for the University of Notre Dame's Duncan
21 Student Center; and

22 WHEREAS, Raymond Duncan was a gifted businessman and

1 philanthropist who left a priceless legacy for people
2 everywhere; and

3 WHEREAS, Raymond Duncan is survived by his loving wife,
4 Sally; his 6 six children; and his 16 grandchildren; therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 mourn the passing of Raymond Twomey Duncan, and we extend our
9 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
10 and loved him; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Raymond Duncan as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy and most sincere appreciation of his
14 entrepreneurial spirit.